

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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(916) 653-5791

**OCT 10 2008**

Dear Tribal Leader:

We are writing to invite you to submit a "Tribal Water Story" to the California Water Plan Update 2009 (CWP). This is an opportunity for your Tribe to explain – in its own voice – how you have been connected with water resources in the past and continue to be connected with water resources in the present. Your story will be included in a special section of the CWP Reference Guide, and help to educate thousands of State agency officials, water district managers, non-profit organizers, and members of the public throughout California.

The idea of having interested California Native American Tribes tell their own stories about water as part of the CWP emerged from the work of the Tribal Communication Committee (TCC). This voluntary committee was convened by the Department of Water Resources in October 2007, to help everyone involved in the CWP to communicate appropriately and effectively with California Native American Tribes. The Committee released a working draft Tribal Communication Plan in July, 2008 (see <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/tribal2>). Objective 8 of the Plan is to *"educate State, local and federal government, and water purveyor executives and planners about the historical and ongoing relationships between California Native American Tribes and water, especially cultural and religious practices."* Related water management practices are also especially relevant and educational (for example, meadow restoration), as well as stories about how climate change has started to affect Tribal water resources. Stories were identified as a particularly powerful and effective tool for accomplishing this objective because they are about real people and places and histories. The CWP was identified as a major State plan with a very large distribution network.

The content and shape of your water story would be up to you.

- It can be about loss and struggle, hope and accomplishment, or anything you choose. The only requirement is that it says something about your Tribe's historical relationships and something about current relationships with water. We want people to learn that Tribes were not just connected with water in the past, but continue to manage, depend on, and have a sacred relationship with water resources today.
- The story can be one or two pages, or a dozen or more.
- It can be written in your native language, or written in English, or written in both.
- It can include some sketches or maps or photos, or be plain text.
- It can be the product of one writer, or several members of your Tribe working together.
- Most importantly, if you want to make an audio or video recording, and have your voice heard and cultural landscape seen literally, we can accommodate this.


Please let us know if you are interested in submitting a story. We will be happy to answer any questions you have. Several Tribal members have already expressed interest, and we are hoping that there may be a dozen stories from across California that illustrate different Tribal relationships with water. We would ask that final submissions be complete by May 1, 2009, in order to leave adequate time for formatting and printing (the final Update 2009 will be published in December 2009).

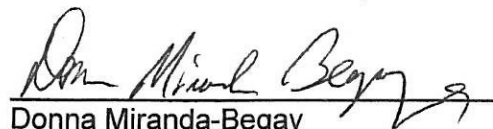
For more information, please contact either

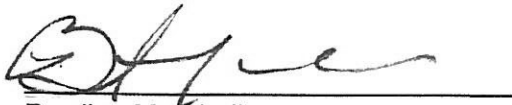
- (1) Bradley Marshall at (415) 260-7552 or bradleyhupa@hotmail.com
- (2) Ruthie Maloney at (707) 502-9155 or rbeadster@yahoo.com or
- (3) Dorian Fougères at (415) 812-7819 or fougeres@gmail.com.

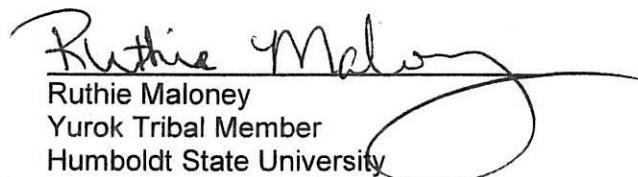
With respect,


Tribal Communication Committee Tribal Water Stories Sub-Committee Members


Atta P. Stevenson


Donna Miranda-Begay
Tribal Chairwoman
Tubatulabals of Kern Valley


Bradley Marshall
Hoopa Valley Tribal Member


Ruthie Maloney
Yurok Tribal Member
Humboldt State University


Irenia Quitiquit
Robinson Rancheria Tribal Member and
Environmental Director


William Speer, Sr.
Shasta Indian Nation Council Member


Steve Archer
Big Valley Rancheria

and

California Department of Water Resources


Mark Cowin
Deputy Director